

Testimony of

**Elizabeth Clement**

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Before the

Education Committee

March 1, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of the caps on class sizes proposed in Senate Bill 1093, which would take an important step in ensuring that classrooms are places where students can learn, and educators can teach.

I have been teaching for 19 years, 14 of those in first grade, and the last five in kindergarten. Seeing curriculum and demands evolved over the past 19 years has been amazing. We are getting our children ready to learn and grow with society. However, with the demands that are changing, there seems to be less and less support for the classroom teacher. This year I have 25 kindergartners. Some of whom came in as four-year-olds. Some who came in, unable to write their name or identify any letters or numbers. Having this many children makes it very difficult to tend to the growing needs of my students. Having large class sizes limits the amount of time and frequency I can have with each small skill group. It seems as though the children who are on the higher end, academically, suffer, because they are not getting challenged enough. However, children at the lower end of the academic spectrum are losing out as well because I cannot meet their demands and small group with having such large class sizes. Then we throw in the immense need of social emotional learning, and that is difficult to do in a class size of 25 with no other adult support in the classroom. I understand we are living in a unique time within education. I understand young adults are not going into the field of teaching and personnel is limited. However, the future, these children, should not be the ones suffering in large class sizes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

